

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

among

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS,**

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,

and the

**ASSOCIATION OF
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS**



**U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of the Administrator
June 12, 2000**

Memorandum of Understanding

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,

U.S. Small Business Administration,

and

Association of Small Business Development Centers

Background

The mission of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is to serve America's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and to be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive the care, support, and recognition earned in service to this nation.

The mission of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small businesses by providing them financial, contractual and business development assistance, and advocating on their behalf within the government. SBA administers its programs through district offices nationwide and through resource partners including the small business development centers (SBDC). SBDCs provide counseling and training in all aspects of business management to current and prospective small business owners.

The Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) is made up of small business development centers throughout the United States. ASBDC's mission is to represent the interests of its members and to promote management and technical assistance to current and prospective small business owners.

Congress mandated that the federal government must do more to assist veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, particularly service-disabled veterans, who often faced great risks to preserve the American dream of freedom and prosperity.

With assistance from DVA, SBA, and ASBDC (together the Parties), these veterans can play a greater role in the American economy by forming and expanding small businesses, and thereby realizing the American dream that they fought to protect.

As required by Section 302 of Public Law 106-50 and Title VII, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, the Parties enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to provide entrepreneurial assistance and support to veterans, including service-disabled veterans.

Responsibilities

The Parties' entrepreneurial assistance and support includes, but is not limited to:

DVA, SBA, and ASBDC will:

- Publicize the services provided under this MOU.

ASBDC will:

- Establish an information clearinghouse to collect and distribute information, including by electronic means, on the assistance programs of federal, state, and local governments and of the private sector, including information on office locations, key personnel, telephone numbers, mail and electronic addresses, and contracting and subcontracting opportunities for veterans.
- Provide training and counseling to veterans concerning the formation, management, financing, marketing, and operation of small business concerns.
- Provide management and technical assistance to the owners and operators of veteran-owned small business concerns regarding international markets, the promotion of exports, and the transfer of technology.

DVA will:

- Compile a list of small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans that provide products or services that could be procured by the United States government and deliver of such list to each department and agency of the United States. Such list shall be delivered in hard copy and electronic form and shall include the name and address of each such small business concern and the products that it provides.
- Provide facilities wherever possible in which the training can be conducted.

SBA will:

- Provide Internet or other distance learning academic instruction for veterans in business subjects including accounting, marketing, business fundamentals, credit repair, and referrals.
- Conduct studies and research, and distribute information generated by such studies and research, on the formation, management, financing, marketing, and operation of small business concerns owned by veterans.
- Provide assistance and information to veterans regarding procurement opportunities with federal, state and local agencies, especially such agencies funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

The Parties understand that particular training events may be cosponsorships necessitating compliance with §8(b)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act.

This MOU will take effect at the time of execution and will remain in effect through Fiscal Year 2000. The MOU may be extended for two years by written agreement of the Parties.

The Parties agree to consult each other regarding any amendments or issues to be addressed. The Parties may modify this MOU by written mutual consent.

The signers of this MOU represent that they have the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their respective organizations.

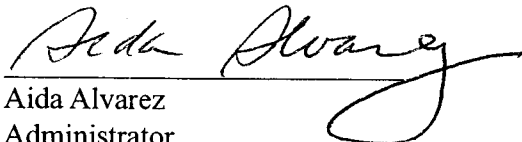
For the Parties



Togo D. West, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

June 12, 2000*

(Date)



Aida Alvarez
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration

June 12, 2000*

(Date)



Woodrow M. McCutchen
Executive Director
Association of Small Business
Development Centers

June 12, 2000*

(Date)

*Actual date signed was February 14, 2000, as directed by Public Law 106-50.

John M. Lameica JUN 12 2000
Witness Date

Bob Filner JUN 12 2000
Witness Date

Witness Date

Witness Date

Witness Date

Witness Date